

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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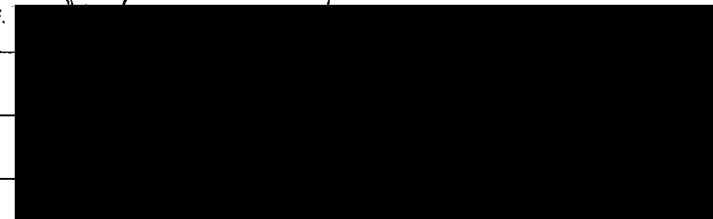
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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 AID-28 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-08 L-04
NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 RSR-01

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R 102241Z FEB 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8596

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SUBJ: US-CR RELATIONS

REF: SAN JOSE 338

1. FEB 10 ISSUES OF WIDELY-READ SAN JOSE DAILIES LA NACION AND LA REPUBLICA REFLECTED POSITIVE REACTION TO AMBASSADOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF FEB 9. BOTH NEWSPAPERS GAVE FRONT PAGE TREATMENT TO AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS, AND BOTH WATE COMPLIMENTARY OF RELAXED AND POISED MANNER WITH WHICH AMBASSADOR RESPONDED TO REPORTERS QUESTIONS. LA NACION STATE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT IT WAS QUOTE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY THE ABILITY SHOWN BY THE AMBASSADOR IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE UNQUOTE. BOTH DAILIES FEATURED AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT THAT RUMORS CARRIED MIAMI HERALD STORY WERE WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

2. MORNING PRESS ALSO FEATURED STATEMENT ISSUED BY PRESIDENT FIGUERES IN LATER PRESS CONFERENCE FEB 9 TO EFFECT THAT HE CONSIDERED MIAMI HERALD REPORT QUOTE UNIMPORTANT UNQUOTE. PRESIDENT SAID GOCR HAD NO COMPLAINTS WHATSOEVER CONCERNING AMBASSADOR PLOESER AND THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVANMENT AND THE AMBASSADOR WERE QUOTE MAGNIFICIENT UNQUOTE.

3. PRESS ALSO GAVE WIDE COVERAGE TO CEREMONIES ATTENDED

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BY AMBASSADOR YESTERDAY EVENING IN WHICH PRESIDENT FIGUERES SIGNED LAW CREATING NEW AID-SUPPORTED MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (IFAM). PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WAS IN LARGE PART DEVOTED TO APPRECIATION FOR US ROLE IN THIS AND OTHER CR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

4. MORNING LA NACION ALSO DEVOTED FULL PAGE PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE TO DINNER AT AMBASSADOR'S HOME LAST NIGHT ATTENDED BY FIGUERES, FONMIN FACIO AND WIVES. DURING COURSE OF EVENING AT AMBASSADOR'S HOME, PRESIDENT AND FONMIN WERE RELAXED AND CORDIAL AND MADE ONLY JOKING REFERENCES TO LOCAL FUROR CREATED BY MIAMI HERALD STORY.

5. COMMENT: COMMENTS BY FIGUERES AND GENERALLY FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE HAVE HAD POSITIVE EFFECT IN CLEARING THE ATMOSPHERE IN SAN JOSE. WHILE SPECULATION CONTINUES REGARDING REPORTS OF POSSIBLE US CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION, WE BELIEVE DAMAGING EFFECTS OF MIAMI HERALD STORY MAY HAVE BEEN BLUNTED.

DOWNGRADE 2/11/72.

PLOESER

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